

Foiling IDENTITY THEFT

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Identity theft is the fastest-growing non-violent crime in North America.

Learn to safeguard
YOUR INFORMATION

5

Identity Theft Jackpots

(and how you can safeguard against them)

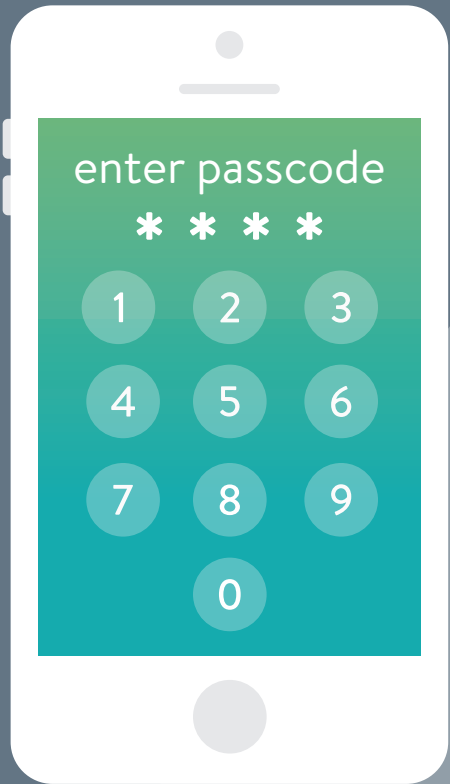


Your Trash Can

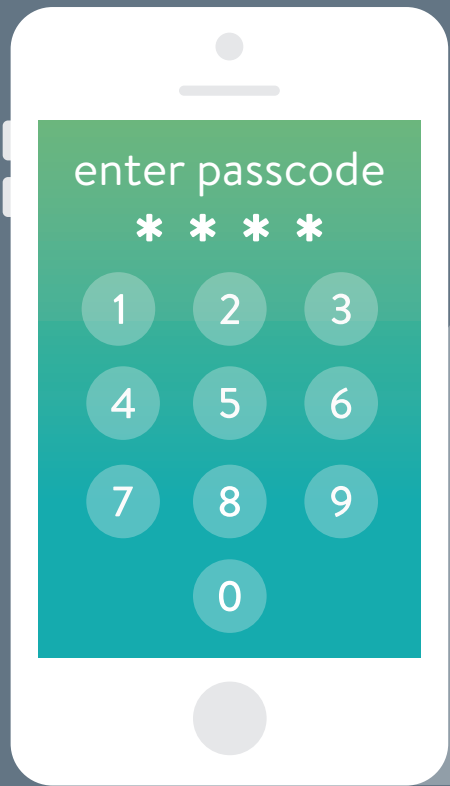


Shred anything that has your full name and address before you throw it out, including:

- Envelopes
- Bank statements
- Expired credit cards
- Cellphone bills
- ATM receipts
- Paycheque stubs

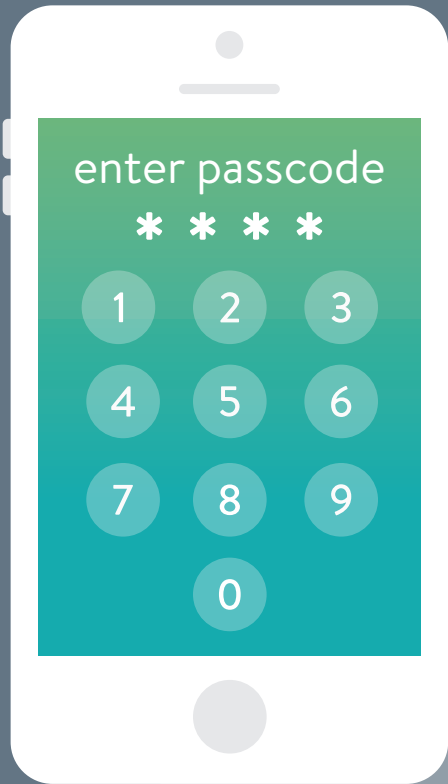


Your
Phone



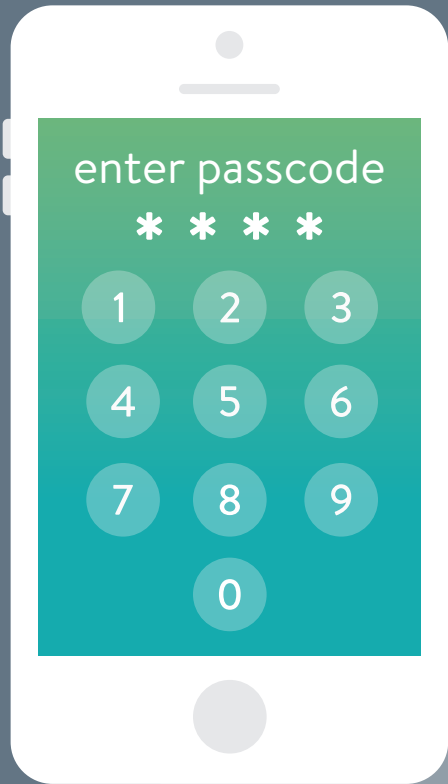
Have a password-protected lock on your home screen.

Take advantage of available features, like location tracking or remote wipe.



Public Wi-Fi networks are not secure.

Avoid checking your bank accounts or doing your online shopping at the coffee shop, airport or other Wi-Fi hotspot.



Don't store sensitive information on your phone.

Avoid storing passwords or login information in note-taking apps.



The PIN Pad



Keep your card in sight at all times.

Use your hand to block the buttons when entering your PIN.



Choose a good PIN:

- Avoid PINs derived from your birthday or address
- Avoid easy-to-guess PINs, like “1234” or “0000”
- Use different PINs for each card
- Your ATM PIN should be different from your phone unlock number



Your Mailbox



Memorize your billing cycles.

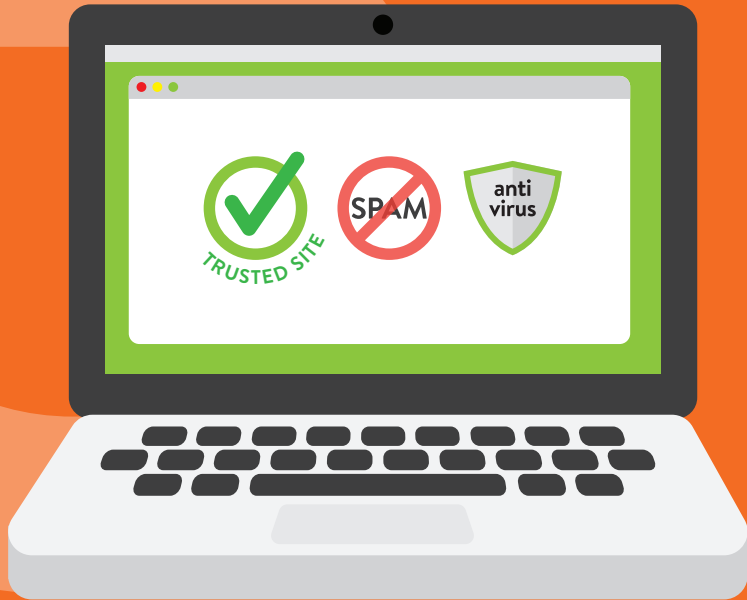
If you suddenly stop receiving mail, it could be a sign of mail tampering or an illegal change of address.

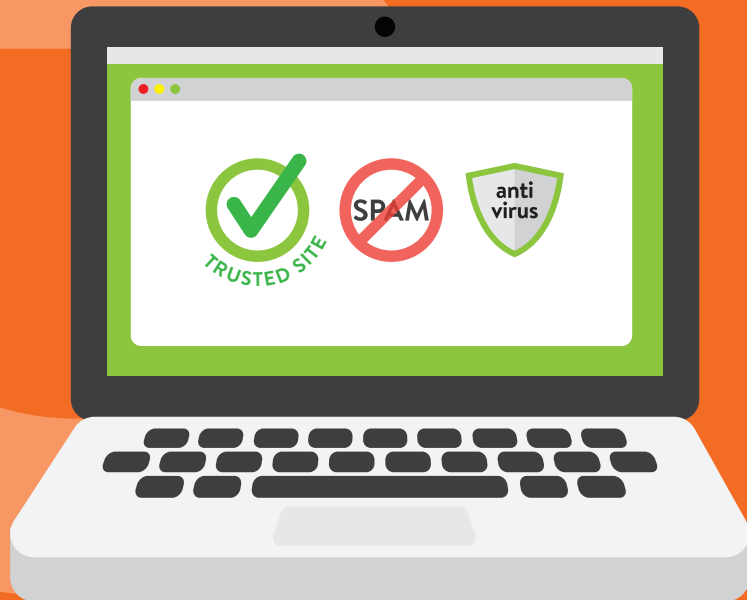


Lock it up.

Use a mailbox with a lock to deter identity thieves.

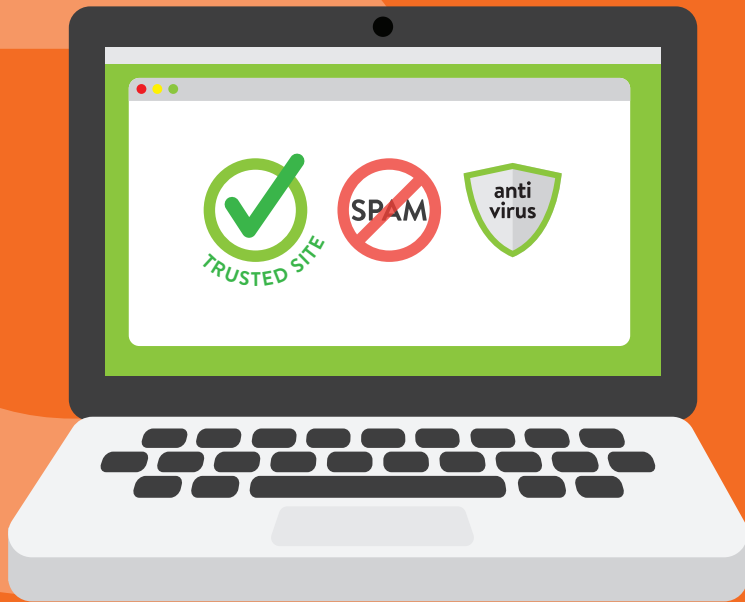
Your Computer





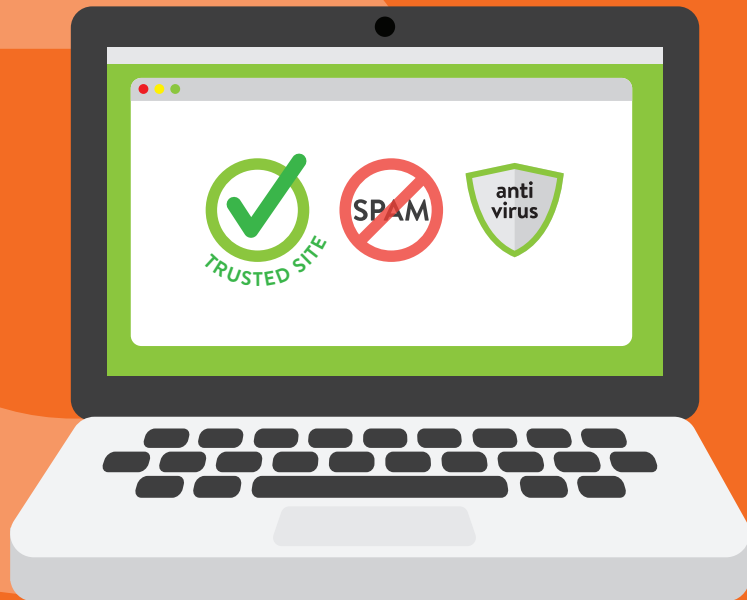
Keep your software up-to-date, including:

- Operating system
- Anti-virus
- App updates
- Spam filters



Look out for sketchy emails:

- Suspicious password reset requests
- Requests for personal information or money
- Unexpected deliveries or tracking numbers



Don't overshare:

- Is your birthday and year listed on Facebook?
- Can your Instagram followers tell when you're out of the house for long periods of time?
- Think before you post

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Sources: Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
Identity Theft Toolkit: How to Recover From and Avoid Identity Theft by John Lenardon.

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